

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 034356

16

ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPE:SVOGELGESANG

APPROVED B: EUR/RPE:WLDUTTON

----- 058571

R 141627Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 034356

FOLL REPEAT EC BRUSSELS 1280 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
BELGRADE BERLIN USBERLIN BUCHAREST PRAGUE SOFIA WARSAW BUDAPEST
NATO BRUSSELS MOSCOW 13 FEB 75 QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 1280

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, COMECON

SUBJECT: WELLENSTEIN ON EC-COMECON MEETING

REF: A. MOSCOW 1764 B. USMISSION GENEVA 894 C. USEC BRUSSELS 602

D. USEC BRUSSELS 908

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
WELLENSTEIN CONFIRMS TO US THAT COMECON REPRESENTATIVES SOUGHT TO
AVOID ANY SUBSTANCE AND SEEMED MAINLY INTERESTED IN THE PRESTIGE
ASPECT OF THE FEBRUARY 4-6 TALKS IN MOSCOW, AS WELL AS PLANS FOR
AN EVENTUAL VISIT BY ORTOLI. THE COMECON SIDE INDICATED THAT THE ONLY
MANDATE IT HAD FROM ITS MEMBER STATES WAS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH
THE EC. AFTER THE EC DELEGATION'S RETURN, THE COMMISSION CONFIRMED
BY TELEGRAM TO COMECON THE INVITATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN
BRUSSELS WELLENSTEIN EXTENDED IN MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A MEETING WITH MISSION OFFICERS FEBRUARY 12, EC COMMISSION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 034356

DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WELLENSTEIN PROVIDED US WITH

HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE RECENT EC-COMECON MEETING IN MOSCOW. HE CONFIRMED AND EXPANDED ON REPORTS IN REFTELS A AND B THAT THE COMECON REPRESENTATIVES SOUGHT TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE AND THAT THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST WAS TO EXPLOIT THE PRESTIGE INVOLVED IN A MEETING WITH EC REPRESENTATIVES. THE COMECON LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT FOR THE MEETINGS FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNDER THE ORGANIZATION'S STATUTES THE COMECON SIDE WAS ONLY ABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS ON WHICH IT HAD A MANDATE FROM MEMBER STATES, AND THAT THE ONLY MANDATE THEY PRESENTLY HAD WAS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE EC.

3. THUS, WELLENSTEIN CONTINUED, THE COMMISSION'S FEARS THAT THE COMECON REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT PROPOSE AN OVERALL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC (REFTEL C) PROVED GROUNDLESS. FAR FROM IT, THEY MADE NO CLAIM WHATSOEVER TO HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRADE POLICY AND INDICATED THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO DISCUSS ANY TOPIC BEARING ON FOREIGN TRADE. WELLENSTEIN THEN RECALLED THAT IT HAD NEVERTHELESS BEEN THE COMECON SIDE WHICH HAD PROPOSED A VAGUE AGENDA ITEM ON "CONDITIONS OF TRADE" FOR THE MOSCOW TALKS. WHEN WELLENSTEIN SOUGHT TO PRENEURATE WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND, THEY SPOKE ONLY OF "TRADE IN THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, " AND ASKED DEFENSIVELY HOW IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE NOT TO INCLUDE SUCH AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE ORTOLI-FADEYEV MEETING.

4. WELLENSTEIN FURTHER OBSERVED THAT THE COMECON REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOTALLY UNPREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS EITHER, PREFERRING TO CONCENTRATE ON THE SCHEDULE FOR ORTOLI'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. WELLENSTEIN SAID HE PURPOSELY AVOIDED ANY COMMITMENT THAT ORTOLI WOULD COME, AND VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS

ANY DETAILS OF A VISIT BY EITHER ORTOLI OR SOAMES. DESPITE EFFORTS TO EXTRACT POSITION PAPERS FROM THE COMECON REPRESENTATIVES ON AGENDA ITEMS, THE ONLY RESULT WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO VACUOUS REPORTS WHICH ADDED NOTHING TO THE PROCEEDINGS.

5. TOWARD THE END OF THE THREE-DAY MEETING WELLENSTEIN TURNED ASIDE EFFORTS BY THE COMECON REPRESENTATIVES TO INDUCE THE EC DELEGATION TO EXTEND ITS STAY IN MOSCOW, AND COUNTERED WITH AN INVITATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS (ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE). THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, AND THE COMMISSION CONFIRMED THE INVITATION IN A CABLE SENT TO MOSCOW FEBRUARY 10.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 034356

6. WELLENSTEIN SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE LOW CALIBRE OF SOME OF THE COMECON PARTICIPANTS, ALTHOUGH AMONG THE EXPERTS WHO WERE OCCASIONALLY CALLED INTO THE MEETINGS HE DETECTED A NUMBER OF CLEVER INDIVIDUALS WHO SEEMED DELIGHTED AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO "OUTSIDERS." WELLENSTEIN SAID HE OBSERVED OCCASIONAL "DIVERGENCES" AMONG THE COMECON PARTICIPANTS AND THE EXPERTS, AND

SEVERAL TIMES THE HEAD OF THE COMECON GROUP INTERVENED TO STOP AN
EASTERN "EXPERT" FROM SPEAKING. GREENWALD

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE034356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:SVOGELGESANG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-0949
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750240/aaaabkag.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MOSCOW 1764 B. USMISSION GENEVA 8, 94 C. USEC BRUSSELS 602
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WELLENSTEIN ON EC-COMECON MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, COMECON, (WELLENSTEIN, EDMUND)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006